

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 /077 W
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R 040440Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6871

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 2650

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ID AS PT

SUBJ: 1) ARRIVAL COMMENTS OF NEW AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR ON
PORTUGUESE TIMOR; 2) NEW PRO-AUSTRALIA POLITICAL PARTY REPORTED
IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. AUSTRALIA'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA RICHARD A.
WOOLCOTT SAID AT AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE ON ARRIVAL IN
JAKARTA MARCH 3 THAT AUSTRALIA "HAS NO SPECIAL INTEREST
IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR" AND THAT TIMOR PROBLEM SHOULD BE
SOLVED BETWEEN THE INDONESIAN AND PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENTS
AND PEOPLE OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR.

2. HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT "SUFFICIENT TIME
WOULD BE ALLOWED TO PERMIT A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO
QUESTION OF FUTURE OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR" THAT WOULD
ACCOMMODATE BOTH THE DESIRES OF ITS PEOPLE AND INDONESIA'S
"NATURAL" INTEREST IN ITS FUTURE.

3. ON AUSTRALIAN-INDONESIAN RELATIONS, WOOLCOTT SAID
THESE HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED AND STRENGTHENED OVER LAST FIVE
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YEARS. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD SEEK TO PROJECT AUSTRALIA

AS A STEADY NEIGHBOR TO INDONESIA AND AS A HELPFUL AND COOPERATION ACTION WILLING TO MAKE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY OF INDONESIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. END UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

4. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR WOOLCOTT'S STATEMENT THAT AUSTRALIA DESIRES A "POLITICAL SOLUTION" TO TIMOR PROBLEM IS OBVIOUS EXPRESSION OF GOA CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE GOI MILITARY TAKEOVER THERE. END CONFIDENTIAL

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

5. JAKARTA PRESS ALSO REPORTED MARCH 4 THAT RADIO AUSTRALIA CORRESPONDENT NOW VISITING DILI HAS REPORTED

FORMATION OF NEW PRO-AUSTRALIA PARTY IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR CALLED "A D I T L A". ACCORDING THIS REPORT, THE NEW PARTY ADVOCATES SOME TYPE OF PROTECTORATE STATUS THAT WOULD GIVE INDEPENDENCE TO PORTUGUESE TIMOR BUT WOULD ENTRUST RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO AUSTRALIA. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUERIES, GOI FONDEP SPOKESMAN NANA SUTRESNA SAID THIS REPORT WAS STILL BEING STUDIED. PORTUGUESE CHARGE SOUZA, WHO WAS ALSO ASKED ABOUT THE NEW PARTY, SAID THE REPORT WAS A SURPRISE AND COULD OFFER NO EXPLANATION. END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

6. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF PRO-AUSTRALIA POLITICAL GROUP IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT "A D I T L A" IS NEW ANTI-INDONESIA STRATAGEM BY FRETILIN-UDT FORCES.

7. FOR SURABAYA: WE WOULD WELCOME ANY COMMENT OR INFORMATION YOU MAY HAVE ON "PRO-AUSTRALIA" MOVEMENT IN TIMOR.
NEWSOM

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